

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 DRC-01 DPW-01 /150 W

----- 103750

R 150926Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6800

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10834

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN REACTION TO LAOS PROTOCOL

1. IN AN OFFICIALS STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 14, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL, SAID CREDIT WAS DUE TO THE POLITICAL WISDOM AND STATESMANSHIP OF BOTH SIDES DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE 1962 GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD SUPPORT THE PROTOCOL AND CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN LAOS. IT SAID INDIA WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONTRIBUTE ITS SHARE TO SAFEGUARDING PEACE IN THE REGION AND TO NATION-BUILDING PROJECTS.

2. THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY DESK OFFICER FOR LAOS TOLD EMBOFF HE THOUGHT THE GOI WOULD BE PLEASED THAT THE PROTOCOL APPEARED TO CALL FOR ONLY A LIMITED ROLE FOR THE ICC AND FOR AGREEMENT BY BOTH LAO PARTIES TO ICC ACTIVITIES. HE WAS AWARE OF NO RECENT DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED REGARDING THE FUTURE ICC ROLE. HE THOUGHT INDIA WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REQUESTS TO BEEF UP ITS ICC CONTINGENT, IF ALL PARTIES AGREED, BUT IT WOULD TRY TO GET

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SOME ASSURANCES REGARDING FUNDING. HE CLAIMED FUNDING AND

PARTICULARLY CHINA'S FAILURE TO PAY ITS SHARE HAD BEEN A HEADACHE FOR THE INDIANS IN THE PAST.

3. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE PROTOCOL SIGNING HAS BEEN LIGHT AND STRAIGHTFORWARD.

4. COMMENT: THE INDIAN REACTION TO THE PROTOCOL APPEARS TO BE POSITIVE BUT THE GOI SEEMS UNCERTAIN AT THIS STAGE WHAT MAY BE EXPECTED OF IT WITH REGARD TO THE ICC. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY VIEWS OR POINTS IT WISHES TO CONVEY TO THE GOI HERE.
SCHNEIDER

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